



## INTRODUCTION !

To address the problems of high litigation costs and delay that burden both plaintiffs and defendants, Congress enacted the Civil Justice Reform Act of 1990 (CJRA), set forth in Title 28, United States Code, section 471 et seq. The Act requires each of the nation's 94 federal district courts to implement a civil justice expense and delay reduction plan.

The United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan is proud to have been designated as one of two differentiated case management (DCM)

The other is the Northern District of Ohio. The statute mandates that we experiment with a DCM system which provides specifically for the assignment of all civil cases to appropriate processing tracks.

Our district's DCM plan was implemented on September 1, 1992. The Federal Judicial Center and the CJRA staff will be gathering empirical data and conducting user surveys to evaluate the impact of this demonstration program. Your input during this evaluation period is important. Together we can improve litigation management and thereby ensure just, speedy, and less expensive resolutions of civil disputes in our district.

Richard Alan Enslen  
Chief Judge

## ! TRACK CHARACTERISTICS !

The criteria given below are illustrative and not mandatory or exhaustive. The recommended amount of time from case filing to disposition is indicated in parentheses. demonstration districts in the nation.

**Voluntary Expedited** (less than 9 months)

- ! assignment is voluntary
- ! few parties and/or few issues, low

42 U.S.C. 1983 actions by prisoners  
bureaucratic administrative appeals,

**Simple** (6-12 months)

**Expedited** (9-12 months)

! multiple parties and/or issues, may be

complex dispute resolution methods

! selective use of arbitration/mediation

**Standard** (12 - 15 months)

! multiple parties and/or issues

! alternative dispute resolution methods